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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : RETO HUGLI ET AL. Confirmation No.: 5699
Serial No. : 09/674,909
Filed : December 7, 2000
TC/A.U. : 3632
Examiner : A. Sterling

Docket No. : 00-679
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

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GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated December 11, 2003 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire March 11, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.